

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0552

July 24, 2018

Members of the San Diego City Council  
202 C. Street  
San Diego, CA 91910

**RE: Proposed San Diego Municipal Code Amendment to Prohibit Housing Discrimination Based on Source of Income**

Dear San Diego City Council Members,

I write to express my strong support for the City of San Diego's proposed municipal code amendment to prohibit housing discrimination based on source of income.

It is no secret that San Diego's population is growing at a rate far greater than our supply of housing, engendering a housing shortage that is affecting San Diegans of all but the highest of income brackets. Families in California's 52<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District rely on housing voucher programs such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher/Section 8 Program. However, as landlord participation is optional, many landlords refuse to accept these subsidies as a form of payment for rent or even explicitly state in advertisements that they will not accept them. The City and the County Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) have created multiple incentive programs for landlord participation, and these programs have been successful overall. However, many San Diegans are still finding barriers to securing a unit simply due to their source of income. I encourage the City and County PHAs to continue strengthening relationships with local landlords by streamlining requirements and growing these incentive programs alongside this effort to combat explicit discrimination.

Earlier this year, an affordable housing development in the Rancho Peñasquitos neighborhood of my district displaced over 300 households, including 149 Section 8 families, and these families experienced significant difficulties in locating new housing that would accommodate their voucher. As a region, we have lost more than 1,300 federally subsidized units between 1995 and 2016 as rental assistance contracts ended and were not renewed, and we can expect a similar number of units to sunset without renewal over the next five years. With the conversion of these subsidized units to market rate, voucher holders are finding themselves increasingly unable to access housing in our region. It is my hope that passing this ordinance will serve as a major step in further protecting vulnerable San Diegans while also addressing our region's housing needs.

I appreciate your consideration of this ordinance and would like to reaffirm my strong support for it. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or Kiera Galloway in my office, at (858) 455-5550.

Sincerely,



Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

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